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Investing in rural people

President's Report on a Proposed Grant under
the Global/Regional Grants Window to
InterAction for the Programme Strengthening
Advocacy for Agricultural and Rural
Development to Amplify the Collective Voice
of Rural Farmers in Rwanda, the United
Republic of Tanzania and Uganda

Note to Executive Board representatives

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For: Approval

Recommendation for approval

The Executive Board is invited to approve the recommendation for the proposed grant as contained in paragraph 15.

President's Report on a Proposed Grant under the Global/Regional Grants Window to InterAction for the Programme Strengthening Advocacy for Agricultural and Rural Development to Amplify the Collective Voice of Rural Farmers in Rwanda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Uganda

I. Background and compliance with IFAD Policy for Grant Financing

1. Civil society organizations (CSOs) and farmers' organizations (FOs) are vital to sustainable rural development and are key stakeholders connecting small-scale farmers and marginalized communities to necessary development services. These organizations bridge the gap between the needs of individuals and the broader communities, working to elevate concerns and break down barriers to access through collective action. A diverse set of forces is rapidly reshaping the traditional development roles of FOs and CSOs. These organizations and the farmers they represent require enhanced capacity to effectively navigate political systems and policy changes.
2. This need is particularly evident in East Africa, where the agricultural sector continues to play a key role in the economies of Rwanda, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda and beyond. Governments and other development partners have continued to support the sector by putting in place structures, policies, investment plans and agencies to support development initiatives. While creating many positive changes, these trends also raise new concerns for local, national and international organizations. To effectively influence key decision makers, it is important for rural smallholder producers – as key stakeholders in the agriculture sector – to develop a common voice to positively influence policy.
3. The proposed programme is in line with the goal and objectives of the IFAD Policy for Grant Financing (2015).¹ Since 2009, IFAD and InterAction have identified the challenges affecting rural smallholder farmers, together driving improvements through best practices, transparency, data-sharing and local partner capacity-strengthening. Prior successful collaboration between InterAction, the Agriculture Non-State Actors Forum (ANSAF), the Uganda Cooperative Alliance (UCA) and other networks of FOs involved with IFAD investments provides InterAction with the lessons learned, insight and relationships to expand these efforts and to utilize its expertise in strengthening civil society alliances, stakeholder engagement and policy advocacy to help guide coalitions of smallholder farmers across East Africa. InterAction's experience shows that improving influence over key decision makers for agricultural and rural development requires engagement with a diverse group of local and national constituents. FOs, cooperatives, civil society networks, international NGOs, government, the private sector and local district officials are all crucial to maximizing agricultural development and improving food security and economic outcomes. By building broader and stronger stakeholder constituencies, InterAction can more effectively engage with officials to implement and/or improve

¹ See EB 2015/114/R.2/Rev.1.

sustainable laws and policies impacting all citizens. Better engagement of local stakeholder constituencies in policy development and advocacy also helps ensure that agriculture policies are rooted in the technical needs and unique realities of affected communities.

II. The proposed programme

4. The overall goal of the programme is to build on early successes and overcome the impediments that prevent smallholder agricultural producers' organizations in the Great Lakes region from being effective advocacy coalitions. InterAction's programme goal is to build the capacity of FOs – with a focus on rural smallholder producers – to engage more strategically and effectively in national agricultural development policy debates in Rwanda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Uganda.
5. The objectives are to strengthen the advocacy strategies and capacities of smallholder producer coalitions, promote the use of data management and analysis to inform advocacy strategies and policy processes, and expand the sharing and management of knowledge at the global, regional, national and local levels to support strengthened advocacy and data use.
6. The target group will be composed of rural smallholder farmers in Rwanda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Uganda. Working through in-country partners, the programme will focus on engaging FOs, international and local NGOs, the private sector and rural youth. Partner organizations were selected based on a set of criteria that examined organizational structures and policy goals, ability to influence and achieve set goals, strategies and tactics, and the socio-political context the group was operating in. In addition, organizations that equitably represent the interests of women, marginalized ethnic or regional groups and other disadvantaged demographics will be proactively identified, with a priority put on balanced participation from subnational regions.
7. The programme will be implemented over two years and will have the following components:
 - Advocacy: Smallholder rural producers' organizations and FOs become more strategic and influential advocates for agricultural development and rural transformation.
 - Data management: FOs establish more effective data management systems, using InterAction's NGO Aid Map and/or other technical solutions to visualize their collective impact and help inform their advocacy efforts.
 - Knowledge-sharing: FOs network, learn and share innovations and best practices with key groups engaged in agricultural development.

III. Expected outcomes/outputs

8. In all three countries, InterAction will continue to provide training, training of trainers, and training resources related to advocacy, data management and knowledge-sharing. Through these partnerships, InterAction expects: an increased capacity on the part of FOs to organize and convene stakeholders on priority policy issues; increased influence in local and national policy processes and dialogues; and broader representation of agricultural actors. Throughout the course of this programme, InterAction will also complete planned upgrades and systems maintenance for the NGO Aid Map in order to make the platform more sustainable, adaptable, useful and reliable.

9. The programme is expected to have the following outcomes:
- Advocacy: Coalitions of smallholder rural producers' organizations become more strategic and influential nationally as advocates for agricultural development and rural transformation.
 - Data management: FOs establish – and benefit from – more effective data management systems, using technical solutions (such as the NGO Aid Map) to visualize their collective impact and inform their advocacy efforts.
 - Knowledge-sharing: FOs network, learn, and share innovations and/or best practices with each other, as well as with key agricultural development stakeholders (NGOs, international NGOs, CSOs, private sector actors and others).

IV. Implementation arrangements

10. InterAction will be the prime recipient and implementer of the grant, responsible for overall management of activities, budget, deliverables and coordination with IFAD Country Offices and headquarters staff. InterAction will work closely with its implementing partners – ANSAF in the United Republic of Tanzania and UCA in Uganda – as well as a Rwandan partner that is yet to be identified. This collaboration will include in-person planning and programme kick-off meetings, as well as regular travel to the region at key points to provide training and support during the implementation period.
11. An InterAction programme manager – guided by InterAction's Vice-President for Global Development Policy and Learning and assisted by the Policy and Advocacy Manager – will supervise and oversee all aspects of this programme and will be responsible for ensuring that all activities follow the implementation plan and that procedures adopted are in line with the grant agreement.
12. The programme manager will also be responsible for ensuring quality in the design, delivery and follow-up to the training modules, as well as for coordinating activities with related cofinancing efforts. A very important part of the work will be the selection of the partners and beneficiaries of the training activities. In regard to these aspects, the programme manager will be responsible for ensuring that adequate coordination with relevant IFAD departments is in place and for supervising local partners and consultants, as well as for coordination between programme participants and beneficiaries, technical assistance providers and IFAD.
13. There are no deviations from IFAD standard procedures for financial reporting and auditing. InterAction has robust financial systems that are designed to provide accurate record keeping and accountability for the financial operation of individual programmes. InterAction's financial statements are audited by independent auditors on a yearly basis, in accordance with International Standards on Auditing. In line with paragraph 15(iii) of the IFAD Policy for Grant Financing, InterAction has been selected directly – given the uniqueness of its global mandate for advocacy and policy-influencing.

V. Indicative programme costs and financing

14. Total costs for the proposed programme are estimated to be US\$1,593,748, including an IFAD grant of US\$1,179,360 and in-kind cofinancing from InterAction of US\$414,388, as presented in tables 1 and 2.

Table 1

Costs by component and financier

(Thousands of United States dollars)

<i>Components</i>	<i>IFAD</i>	<i>InterAction</i>	<i>Total</i>
1. Advocacy	293	125	418
2. Data management	440	126	566
3. Knowledge-sharing	446	163	609
Total	1 179	414	1 593

Table 2

Costs by expenditure category and financier

(Thousands of United States dollars)

<i>Expenditure category</i>	<i>IFAD</i>	<i>InterAction</i>	<i>Total</i>
1. Salaries and allowances	284	414	698
2. Consultancies	308	-	308
3. Travel and allowances	112	-	112
4. Goods, services and inputs	107	-	107
5. Workshops	281	-	281
6. Overheads	87	-	87
Total	1 179	414	1 593

* Including equipment and materials.

** Including training.

VI. Recommendation

15. I recommend that the Executive Board approve the proposed grant in terms of the following resolution:

RESOLVED: that the Fund, in order to finance, in part, the programme Strengthening Advocacy for Agricultural and Rural Development to Amplify the Collective Voice of Rural Farmers in Rwanda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Uganda, shall provide a grant of one million, one hundred and seventy-nine thousand, three hundred and sixty United States dollars (US\$1,179,360) to InterAction for a two-year period, upon such terms and conditions as shall be substantially in accordance with the terms and conditions presented to the Executive Board herein.

Gilbert F. Hougbo
President

Results-based logical framework (more detail included in the grant design document)

	Objectives-hierarchy	Objectively verifiable indicators	Means of verification	Assumptions
Goal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Farmers' organizations (FOs), engage more strategically and effectively in national agricultural development policy debates in United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda, and Rwanda 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100 % increase in FOs engaged in policy dialogue engagements with key counterparts 	Baseline, midterm, and endline surveys and assessments of participating organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operating environment for civil society enables stakeholder engagement & collaboration Mechanisms exist or can be created for multi-stakeholder policy dialogue
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocacy: FOs become more strategic and influential advocates for agricultural development and rural transformation, with a focus on strengthening the collective voice of rural farmers. Data Management: FOs establish more effective data management systems using NGO Aid Map and/or other technical solutions to visualize their collective impact and help inform their advocacy efforts. Knowledge Sharing: Farmers' organizations will network, learn, and share innovations and/or best practices with key groups engaged in agricultural development, such as InterAction members, INGOs, local NGOs, private sector, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three policy issues championed by participants that align with national agricultural development agendas 100% increase in use of NGO Aid Map or other data platforms 100% increase initiatives related to agricultural development policies and programmes convened or participated in by beneficiary FOs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Baseline, midterm, and endline surveys and assessments of participating organizations Monitoring and event tracking system data 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operating environment for civil society enables stakeholder engagement & collaboration Mechanisms exist for cross-sector policy dialogue Government policy makers and donors are responsive to civil society engagement efforts in policy dialogue NGO Aid Map or other data platforms to be identified (IATI, etc.) have sufficiently detailed data to support the information needs of advocates and FOs.
Outcomes/ Outputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Better assessment, design, and organization of advocacy initiatives by FOs Easier data sharing, accessibility, and improved functionality of NGO Aid Map Increased understanding and skills developed within participating organizations about multi-stakeholder engagement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participant surveys show better assessment, design, and organization of advocacy campaign 100% Increase in number of policy/programme communications disseminated (e.g. policy briefs); Participant surveys show greater understanding and skills in stakeholder outreach & engagement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Baseline, midterm, and endline surveys and assessments of participating organizations Monitoring and event tracking system data 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Political stability in region and sustained organizational operation by partners Civil society participants have adequate internet connectivity Regional and national forums and other events are not disrupted or excessively delayed

	Objectives-hierarchy	Objectively verifiable indicators	Means of verification	Assumptions
Key Activities by component	<p>Advocacy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Events (meetings, workshops, etc.) held • FO and alliance network annual action plans and campaign strategies developed and agreed • Advocacy trainings conducted by local facilitators and InterAction staff • Support visits to FOs • Policy dialogues with FOs and policy makers held • IEC materials produced and disseminated <p>Data Management:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trainings on NGO Aid Map and other data platforms conducted • Technical audit and NGO Aid Map roadmap implementation strategy developed • Communications and events to raise awareness and encourage data use conducted <p>Knowledge Sharing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National and regional networking events/convenings held • Online and in-person communities of practice created and managed • Toolkits for replicating advocacy, data management, and knowledge-sharing approach developed and disseminated 	<p>Advocacy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eight stakeholder dialogues (meetings, workshops, etc.) organized on key agricultural policy and budgeting issues at various levels • Four of policy papers published <p>Data Management:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eight trainings and focus groups held • 1 NGO Aid Map roadmap developed based on technical audit and user consultations • 100% increase in data published in agriculture sector within East Africa Community (EAC) <p>Knowledge Sharing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Four learning events, networking sessions, etc. held • 100% increase of participants in online and in-person communities of practice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baseline, midterm, and endline surveys and assessments of participating organizations • Monitoring and event tracking system data • NGO Aid Map web analytics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partners identified, engaged, and committed to agreed workplans • Support from IFAD country directors and staff in order to ensure regional coordination and learning

***Following baseline assessments all cited indicators and numbers will be reviewed and edited where needed.